

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-05 /095 W

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R 061053Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7605

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 0196

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR FT

SUBJECT: TFAI INDEPENDENCE DATE APPARENTLY ADVANCED

REF: A. PARIS 34011

B. ADDIS 13546

C. ADDIS 12963

1. REUTER'S DISPATCH PRINTED IN LOCAL MEDIA ENLARGED ON FRENCH GOVERNMENT STATEMENT RE TFAI INDEPENDENCE CONTAINED IN REF A. DISPATCH SAID FRENCH OFFICIALS STATED INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE SPEEDED UP TO ALLOW FOR INDEPENDENCE BEFORE THE OAU SUMMIT IN JUNE 1976.

2. ANOTHER REUTER'S DISPATCH QUOTED TFAI PRESIDENT ALI AREF'S DEC 29 STATEMENT IN PARIS THAT THE FRENCH MILITARY BASE IN DJIBOUTI SHOULD REMAIN AFTER THE TERRITORY GAINED INDEPENDENCE. "FOR SECURITY," HE REPORTEDLY SAID, "WOULD NOT BE GUARANTEED WITHOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS BASE. THE FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE SHOULD BE A FACTOR

FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF POLITICAL BALANCE IN THE
REGION."

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO THE ABOVE, THE TARGET DATE FOR TFAI
INDEPENDENCE MAY HAVE BEEN ADVANCED CONSIDERABLY OVER PREVIOUS
FRENCH PROJECTIONS (1977 OR 1978) REPORTED IN REF C AND
PARIS 26908 AND 25854. TARGET DATE NOW APPEARS TO BE THAT
REFERRED TO BY ALI AREF IN PARA TWO REF B. JUNE INDEPENDENCE
DATE WILL BE WELCOMED BY OAU MEMBERS AND WILL REDUCE PRESSURE
ON FRENCH TOWARD TFAI INDEPENDENCE. APPARENT FRENCH WILLINGNESS
TO CONTINUE AS EFFECTIVE GUARANTORS OF AN INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI'S
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY SHOULD ENHANCE THE POSSIBILITY OF A RELATIVELY
STABLE TFAI TRANSITION TO A NEW STATUS - PARTICULARLY VIS-A-VIS
ITS NEIGHBORS. DOMESTICALLY, HOWEVER, ALI AREF'S VIABILITY
REMAINS CRUCIAL. EMBASSY'S REPORTS SUGGEST THAT HIS STRENGTH
AND SUPPORT REMAIN MARGINAL. HE WILL NEED TO CONCILIATE HIS
INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL OPPOSITIONS TO PREVENT POLITICAL AND TRIBAL
STRIFE WHICH COULD COST HIM FRENCH SUPPORT AND GIVE RISE TO NEW
UNCERTAINTIES ABROAD.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, POLICIES, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, POLITICAL LEADERS, TFAI
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS00196
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760004-0142
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760185/aaaacxee.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 34011
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <20 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TFAI INDEPENDENCE DATE APPARENTLY ADVANCED
TAGS: PFOR, FT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006